

# WOODCHUCK CHATTER



Volume 2, Issue 4

## Special points of interest:

- Photos of Last Meeting
- Random Shots: Turn Some Pens!
- Product Review
- Last Meeting
- What's Coming Up

April 9, 2005

## Meeting on April 21st

At the next regular meeting on April 21st, rather than an at-the-lathe demo, we will have a roundtable discussion of two relevant topics: 1) the copying of other's ideas/works and 2) pricing work to be sold. For these discussions I would recommend reading the relevant articles in the latest Journal of the American Associa-

tion of Woodturners. Also bring to the meeting items that you feel are copies of other's work and/or pieces you would like help with pricing.

Ted



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## Secretary's Report –Meeting of March 17th.

19 members present

The Woodchuck Extravaganza will set-up at 9:00 on Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Help is needed! There will be the chapter's and Ted's Novas to demonstrate on. We currently have 4 volunteers to turn and need more for each weekend in April. Items for sale at the extravaganza need to be marked and priced by each member. The cut is 60% to you and 40% to Woodbury's.

Brad reports that the design has been finalized for the portable stand for the club lathe and that it will be ready for the extravaganza.

Murray is in the hospital with a stomach infection. We send him our wishes for a rapid recovery.

Joe Gaines lost his 5 month old son and we send our condolences.

The pens for troops were not delivered at Christmas as we believed. They were held back and will be delivered to the troops at a welcome home ceremony on April 9<sup>th</sup>. It is at noon at the Essex fairgrounds and woodchucks are welcome – talk to Bob Bouvier. For next year we have a lot of pens to turn and Herb asks for more help with the turning. Instruction is available for those interested in helping out.

Bob Bouvier reports that the Woodnet gallery will open in the village of Stowe. They will jury work on April 1, 2, and 3. The

soft opening is scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup> with a grand opening possible on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The store will be in the walking part of the village at 32 Park Street. It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> right after the 3-way stop on Mountain Road. It has its' own parking (Bob says they WILL ticket abusers!)



Woodchuck Board meeting scheduled for March 23<sup>rd</sup> at Ralph's shop in Cambridge.(see report)

(Continued on page 5)

## Woodchuck Chatter

### Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont

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Woodchuck Chatter will be published monthly. Deadline for submissions is the 7th of the month. Please E-mail all submissions to the Editor in text or Word format. Visuals can be submitted as JPEG or TIFF.

## Random Shots

### Topic Of The Day— Participation

It seems that every association has the same set of problems. It's called the 20-80 rule. 20% of the members do 80% of the work. No amount of leadership seems to affect that. Every club comes together out of a common interest. In our case, it's a desire to learn more about turning wood. That doesn't mean that any of us can write about turning, nor does it mean that any of us are comfortable with all forms of turning. What it does mean is that only a part of those with a skill, who are in turn a part of the membership, use the skill for the club. Hence, 20-80.

Today, that means that not enough turners are producing pens for our club commitment to supply every one of the Green Mountain Boys (some of whom are women) with a pen made from genuine Vermont maple. We wish for every one of our Vermont troops deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan to have a piece of Vermont with them overseas. It's our effort to affirm our support for those Vermonters called up for the business of our country.

We were at Woodbury's on

April 2nd for the opening day of the Extravaganza. There were 3 Woodchucks plus Scott. It's too bad that no other Woodchucks stopped in to visit or take part.

### Pen Project Report

Here's the current status of the pen project. 250 pens have been turned over to the Guard. They will be presented to the troops at the ceremonies on April 9. An unknown number of pens are in the hands of troops overseas. They were sent to Major McKern who, with 5 other Vermonters, is serving at Camp Speicher along with a New Jersey support group. That part is a mystery which we hope to unravel. Bob Bouvier has an additional 300 pens in his possession. We hope to give over 440 pens to the Guard within the next week. That's a total of 550 pens turned by "less than 10" Woodchucks with a total of 1200 pens as a goal. That's a big order for "less than 10" turners to fill, so we need help.

There're plenty of reasons not to help such as lack of interest in pen turning, not having a lathe, not knowing how, not being certain of doing as well as the next guy. We can overcome most of those reasons. Several of us are willing teachers. We

have equipment at Woodbury's to learn on. The club has all the supplies needed so you will not be out of pocket for the project.

None of us can laugh at the turning skills of another. My bet is that each of us has a good-sized pile of ugly work under a tarp somewhere. (I do.) We all enjoy showing our good stuff around for Show and Tell, but few of us want to dwell on the agony of defeat. A little humility is a good thing, and showing our errors is sure humbling. Don't think that anyone will give you a hard time about your pens. Chances are, you are capable of showing better work than what's been done so far.

The other subject for participation is this newsletter. As Editor, I know I'm also the chief writer and photographer. But I don't want to be the only contributor. If I buy any more tools or books to review, I stand in danger of sleeping on the couch for a while. Also, I don't get around that much so I don't know what's going on in the crafts circles of Vermont. I need your help to keep Woodchuck Chatter an interesting newsletter.

Arny

## Tips For Wise Woodchucks

You can find great pieces of turning stock on eBay by searching under "lumber". One caveat however is that you realize when bidding on a piece whether it is green and therefore quite heavy incurring as much cost for shipping as for the item itself.

Ted

## Tool Review

I got very tired of waiting for the glue to flow down to the tip when I would turn the standard bottle over for a glue-up. This is a neat glue dispenser. It comes with 2 tips; flat for spreading, small round for injecting. Take the tip cover off, point at the area, and squeeze the bottle. It comes in several sizes. This, the "babybot" cost me \$4.00. It's available from many sources, including Spooner Specialties and Western Tool Supply.



Arny

Woodchuck Board Meeting March 23, 2005

The meeting was held at Ralph's shop in the bustling commercial center of Cambridge's industrial park.

The pen project is not supportable at the present level of participation. Herb reports that only 5-6 people are currently turning pens and that adds up to about 250 each. We need to recruit more pen turners. Jim Cunningham to demonstrate at Extravaganza, Herb at the April meeting. Bob Martin has sent 5 pens to Seabees from White River Junction currently deployed. Financially we need \$546 to finish the project. Hav is contacting Hazlet Castings for support. Total cost will be about \$2700.

Tentative demonstration schedule for the next couple of months is as follows:

April: The ethics of copying

Pricing your work

Pen turning with Herb before the meeting

May: Michael Mode. Date and topic TBA

June: Finishing roundtable  
July: Ralph will contact Rick Mastelli to see if he is available.

August: BBQ at Herb's with Al Stirt. Date TBA. Possible topic on developing ideas with Al.

Turning stock on the stump with Ralph in the woods.

September: TBA

October: Annual meeting and elections. Demonstration TBA.

There was a discussion of whether we should seek 501 (C) (3) tax exempt status. The benefit would be that donations would be tax deductible. The drawback is the amount of paperwork required. Topic tabled.

Doug Jones had offered a home for our lathe at the Shelburne Craft School. There were a number of issues raised including access, use, wear and tear/maintenance, security and liability. An equipment subcommittee was formed with Ralph, Joe and Bob Martin to draft a

more comprehensive policy on use of our equipment. They are to report back at the next board meeting.

Delegation of work of and by committees was discussed. We need to call for more volunteers to serve on committees for: demonstrations, videos, handbook, equipment, and by-laws revision. We came up with 5 committees needed now:

Library/video as separate from Vice President's duties

Programs/meetings to arrange schedule and demonstrators

Publicity to issue press releases, distribute brochures

Newsletter/handbook. Currently being done by Arny who needs help

Equipment -to manage and maintain our stuff

The mentoring program needs to be revisited to make sure that new members are being mentored as well as established turners are being connected with a mentor as needed.

The Chatter newsletter is being currently sent to members by e-mail at no cost for up to 2 years after membership expiration before Arny drops them. He requests that members please make submissions so that he doesn't have to do the whole thing himself. We discussed offering business memberships which would provide advertising space in the chatter for \$50/year.

We have a website!?!? Jim Cunningham has been posting the Chatters on his Moose Mountain website which is linked to the AAW website. Yet another task for the web savvy, we need help with establishing a web site and maintaining it. Any volunteers?

Dick Montague will be back by March 31<sup>st</sup> and has offered to do 1-on-1 tutoring before the regular meetings. Those interested can contact him directly by e-mail or phone.

An agenda item on where do we want to be in 1- 5 years was tabled for lack of time.

Next board meeting scheduled for Wednesday October 5<sup>th</sup>. Location TBA.

## News From Away

The VT Woodnet gallery in Stowe will "soft" open 4/15/05 and have a grand opening on Memorial Day weekend. Several Woodchucks are already part of that effort. See our web site [www.vtwoodnet.org](http://www.vtwoodnet.org) (scroll down on page one and find the video clip message) and look at a 1 minute video clip showing the gallery and asking for more product. Are you interested?????

**Bob Bouvier**

TOTALLY TURNING 2005 will be held in the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany, NY on October 15 and 16. Featured presenters will be Stuart Batty, Nick Cook, and Andi Wolfe.

Complete information related to the symposium is available on the symposium website

[WWW.TOTALLYTURNING.COM](http://WWW.TOTALLYTURNING.COM)

A package of information will be sent to WTNV in the near future for distribution to our club members.

If you have any questions about Totally Turning 2005 please feel free to contact us at 518 753 7759.

Ken Evans/Mike Kross  
Co-Chairpersons  
Totally Turning 2005

## Club Members Only Promotion

Month of April

Dear Club Member,  
As this is an exclusive offer, our representatives will not ask you if you belong to a club

when ordering. To make sure you receive the special offer pricing, be sure to mention your club name before placing your order.

Club Members Only Promotion  
Effective: April 1-April 30

Promotion Description:

When you spend \$100 or more you will receive a \$20 gift certificate, to be used on orders placed during the month of May. This gift certificate can not be redeemed after May 31st.

For detailed information please see our club link on

[www.woodturnerscatalog.com](http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com).

If you have any questions please call our customer representatives at 1-800-551-8876.

## Ted Fink—Turning Green Wood

### In House Demos:

**April: Discussion: Pricing and Ethics. Woodchuck Extravaganza.**

**May: *Michael Mode***

**June: Finishing round table**

**July: Rick Mastelli (tentative)**

**August: Picnic at Herb's—Al Stirt on creative process: also, Turning Stock On The Stump with Ralph**

**September: TBA**

**October: Annual meeting & elections**

Green wood is any wood with a moisture content above the Fiber Saturation Point. That is the point at which the cell walls are fully saturated but the cell cavities are empty of water; about 28% moisture content.

It requires different handling than dry wood. Turning is easier, but warping and checking or cracking is more likely as the wood loses its moisture content. Green wood is more likely to decay than dry wood because its moisture is attractive to fungi.



### Conditions for Decay:

Fungi like wood with MC of 20-30%. They like oxygen. They like it warm—anywhere between 40 F. and 100 F. will do. Remove any of those conditions from your woodpile to reduce decay.

Spalted wood is an attractive medium to work with. One method of promoting spalting is to place the wood under a damp pile of leaves in early Spring, out of the wind.

### Checking & Cracking:

Slow end grain water loss. Having a steep gradient of water loss between the center of a log and the ends will promote checking. Protect unturned wood by cutting the log in half lengthwise and sealing

the ends and about an inch of the side grain. Store and stack wood in a cool, shady spot.

Returned wood can be protected from moving by sealing and slowly releasing moisture. Seal bowl forms inside & out; hollow or closed forms on the outside only. Start the drying process on a cool cellar floor. Date and weigh the pieces so you can keep track of progress. Move up away from the floor in steps as the wood loses weight. If checking starts, put wood into layers of paper bags to slow drying.

Drying finished turned pieces: Air dry if under 1/4" thick. Slow down drying by bagging. Nuke-ing thin pieces also



works in short increments. Be cautious when borrowing the family microwave, so as not to blow up the unit or burn up either the unit or the spouse.

### Turning wet wood:

Wet wood is much softer than dry to turn. A large, deep bowl gouge is preferred. Try holding the tool at 45 degrees to the cut with the tool turned about 45 degrees from straight up. Do not use too much pressure, and do not advance the tool too rapidly.

(Continued from page 1)

Dick Montague is flying back North with all the other snow-birds and will be available for 1-on-1 instruction before meetings. Contact him with your needs.

Ralph is teaching at the Shelburne Craft School on April 2-3. cost \$250 with a class limit of 4.

April 2-3 Woodworker's Show-case in New York.

Raffle: Lumber from Ted

\$15 Craft Supply gift certificate

### Show & Tell:

Herb: Walnut bowl with thinned wall (colander??)



Maple spalted bowl with worm-holes



Paul Willard: Wooden bouquet with vase

Small ash bowl

Brad: Ginger jar in red oak finished with patinating wax/shoe polish  
Walnut jar finished with gilt cream finish and urethane oil. (source of gilt paste: [www.gilderspaste.com](http://www.gilderspaste.com) 1-800-825-0029)



Randy: 2 X 4 and Walnut laminated bowl

Heavy maple bowl



Al Johnson: Curly maple suspended box



Ted: 4 bowl jig saw puzzle



Ralph: 2 sugar maple bowls

Presentation was by Ted on turning green wood in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

Next meeting April 21<sup>st</sup>.

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<http://www.woodturningcenter.org/links.html>

<http://www.woodcentral.com/>

<http://www.woodturningonline.com/>

<http://www.cnew.org/> (Central New England Woodturners)

<http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com/>

<http://www.packardwoodworks.com/>

<http://www.tools-for-woodworking.com/>  
(Highland Hardware)

<http://www.pennstateindustries.com/>

# AAW News Items

## AAW Encourages Youth

In keeping with our mission of "fostering a wider understanding and appreciation for turning among the general public", The American Association of Woodturners has declared this June to be "Youth Month". It will be dedicated to the teaching of woodturning to young people. In an effort to create a new generation of woodturners, local chapters are encouraged to focus their meetings on teaching "hands on" the craft of woodturning to as many young people as possible. Getting youth interested can be a challenge! Consider involving other organizations including your local 4-H clubs, Boy and Girl Scout organizations, church groups, and local schools (art and shop classes). To effectively create a lasting enthusiasm for turning, we recommend at least 3-5 separate lessons be employed combining some review of the previous lesson as well as covering some new techniques. Simple projects such as twig pots, tops, pens, or yoyo's seem to be easily completed in a session and give the youth both an appreciation for turning and the satisfaction of taking home a completed project. Remember: Safety during all sessions should be stressed. To further encourage a growing "Youth movement", the AAW will create an instant gallery at the Overland Park Symposium especially for youth to display their work. All entries to the instant gallery will be included in a drawing for a prize to be announced at the symposium. Additionally, free entrance to the symposium can be arranged for a youth 10-17 when accompanied by an attending registered adult. Contact the AAW office to register youth. We will have continuous hands on sessions, some with world-class turner Bonnie Klein. Twenty complete turning outfits, including Jet Mini-lathes, chucks and tools will also be given to some of our lucky attending youths. We hope every chapter will see the importance of involving our youth and passing the knowledge and joy of turning to our next generation. Let me know if you have any questions or additional ideas concerning this very important idea. We will be posting your pictures and efforts on the AAW web site from time to time, so pass your efforts along to me via email at your convenience.

Sincere Thanks,  
 Gary Lansinger  
 Youth Committee Chair  
 Phone number:330-697-4166  
 Email:garlan@ameritech.net

## AAW Sponsors Insurance

Most professional turners know that their homeowner's insurance policy does not cover their private business activities, inventory, teaching, equipment and property. Most of them have either done without insurance at great risk, or at great expense and effort, have found an agent to cover them. On the other hand, most of the rest of us assume that our homeowner's policy insures us even if we do some sales of our work or occasional teaching. Laws that regulate insurance vary from state to state. In North Carolina, it used to be that activities that were occasional in nature and did not amount to a "substantial" amount of income were covered by one's homeowner's policy. A few years ago, it changed to say that "any" activity that was commercial in nature, no matter how few dollars were involved, was not covered. Each member should check with your own insurance agent to see if all of your activities are covered by your homeowner's insurance policy. As a service to our members (no part of the premiums go to AAW), the AAW has sought out a group policy that individual members can purchase at reasonable rates to cover their commercial activities of woodturning. The policy can insure AAW members in the USA with the exception of California, Hawaii, Louisiana, and Washington DC. If someone can recommend insurers that will cover Canadian, foreign, or members in these excluded locations, please let the AAW know. The Managing Agency Group of Hilb, Rogal and Hobbs, a large and well-respected national firm offers the policy that the AAW is sponsoring. They have been offering a similar policy to members of the American Crafts Council (ACC). The underlying policy is with OCG, the Ohio Casualty Group. This policy includes \$1,000,000 general liability, 1,000,000 for products liability, \$10,000 medical expense, \$300,000 fire legal liability, and with building and personal property for any amount of your choosing, from \$2,500 up to \$100,000. [AAW Professional Insurance Program](#)

## Summary

Below is a summary of the policy benefits to any insured member. The policy will pay the actual amount of the loss sustained up to the following limits:

Building	Building amount
Business Personal Property	Contents amount
limit:	Actual loss Sustained
Loss of Income Limit:	Money & Securities Limits:
	(On Premises) \$10,000
Sign Coverage:	\$10,000
Valuable Papers Limit:	\$25,000
Accounts Receivable Limit:	\$25,000
Seasonal Increase limit:	25% of Contents
In-Transit Limit/Off Premises Limit:	\$25,000
Employee Dishonesty:	\$10,000
Fire Department Service charge	\$15,000
Interior Glass	\$100/pane, \$1,000/occurrence
Pollutant Clean	\$10,000
Personal Effects	\$2,500/5,000
Newly Acquired Property	
(Building) 25%	up to \$100,000
(Contents)	\$25,000
Debris Removal	\$25,000
Jewelry - Theft Limitation	\$5,000
Business Computer	\$25,000

COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY

Each Occurrence Limit:	\$1,000,000
Products Liability	\$1,000,000
Aggregate Limit:	\$2,000,000
Medical Expenses	\$10,000
Fire Legal Liability Limit:	\$300,000

CONDITIONS:  
 DEDUCTIBLE: \$250  
 VALUATION: Replacement Cost  
 COINSURANCE: None  
 COVERAGE: Special (All Risk)

Each person's coverage will be the same except for the building and personal property coverage. Your premium will be based on your location and how much building and personal property coverage that you request. To apply and get a premium quote, download an application at

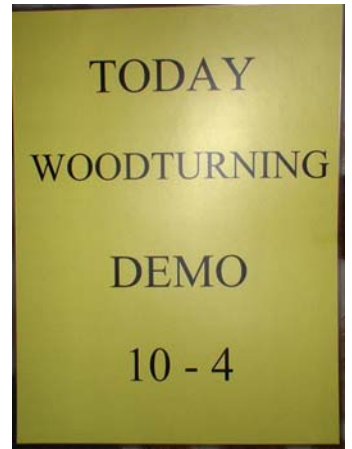
[http://www.woodturner.org/community/pop/insurance\\_info.html](http://www.woodturner.org/community/pop/insurance_info.html), print it, fill it out, and mail or fax it to the address on the application. You must be an AAW member to apply.

*"local chapters are encouraged to focus their meetings on teaching "hands on" the craft of woodturning to as many young people as possible"*

**Woodchuck Turners of  
Northern Vermont  
An associated chapter of  
American Association of  
Woodturners**

Publisher:  
Arny Spahn  
1620 Hebard Hill Rd.  
Randolph, VT

"local chapters are encouraged  
to focus their meetings on  
teaching " hands on " the craft



This Space For Mailing Label

## Secretary's Report—Continued

(Continued from page 5)



## Treasurer's Report

As of March 17, 2005

### Chapter monies

Balance forward \$1895.95

#### Income

dues 80.00

raffle 38.00

2013.95

#### Expenses

2 Laminated demo signs - 21.09

New balance 1992.86

### Pens Project

Balance forward \${46.53}



#### Income

donations 100.00

pen sales 140.00

New balance \$193.47

Ted